

Notice of Meeting

Communities Select Committee



Date & time
Wednesday, 14
November 2012
at 2.00 pm

Place
Ashcombe Suite,
County Hall, Kingston
upon Thames, Surrey
KT1 2DN

Contact
Andrew Spragg
Room 122, County Hall,
Kingston Upon Thames,
Surrey, KT1 2DN
Tel: 020 85419068

Chief Executive
David McNulty

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Andy Spragg on 020 8541 8914.

Members

Mr Steve Cosser (Chairman), Mr Mike Bennison, Mr Graham Ellwood, Mrs Angela Fraser, Denis Fuller, Mr David Ivison, Mrs Jan Mason, Mr Chris Norman (Deputy Chairman), Mr John Orrick, Mr Michael Sydney, Mr Colin Taylor and Mr David Wood

Ex Officio Members:

Mrs Lavina Seeley (Chairman of the Council), Mr David Munro (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Select Committee is responsible for the following areas:

Community Safety	Adult and Community Learning
Crime and Disorder Reduction	Cultural Services
Youth Offending	Sport
Fire and Rescue Service	Voluntary Sector Relations
Localism	Heritage
Relations with the Police Authority and Police	Citizenship
Customer Services	Trading Standards and Environmental Health
Library Services	2012 Olympics

PART 1
IN PUBLIC

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS Agenda
Item
Only

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Agenda
Item
Only

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

Notes:

- In line with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, declarations may relate to the interest of the member, or the member's spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom the member is living as husband or wife, or a person with whom the member is living as if they were civil partners and the member is aware they have the interest.
- Members need only disclose interests not currently listed on the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting so they may be added to the Register.
- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

3 SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MAGNA CARTA 800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (Pages 1
- 18)

On 23 October, Surrey County Council's Cabinet made a decision in relation to support for the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations. The Communities Select Committee will be meeting to consider the call-in of this decision.

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Agenda
Item
Only

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 10am on 21 November 2012.

David McNulty
Chief Executive
Published: 06 November 2012

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Communities Select Committee
14 November 2012

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets / Policy Development and Review

To scrutinise the Cabinet decision to support the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations and in particular, the £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre.

Introduction:

- 1 On 23 October, Surrey County Council's Cabinet made a decision in relation to support of the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations, in particular:
 - i. That all recommendations in the model resolutions 1-20, which includes the proposal for a National Holiday on 15th June 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary, be supported and endorsed.
 - ii. That a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding to be raised externally, be approved in principle subject to appropriate project governance and management being put in place, the agreement of which be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Assistant Chief Executive.
- 2 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Steve Cosser and Chris Norman) have called-in this decision for review by the Communities Select Committee.

Background

- 3 On 23 October 2012, the Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report detailing how the County Council would support the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Celebrations, including investment in a new visitor centre. A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at **Appendix 1**. The details of the Cabinet's decision are included as **Appendix 2**.
- 4 The call-in notice, attached at **Appendix 3**, requests that the select committee be given the opportunity to review the decision to agree in

principle a £5m contribution to the funding of a new visitor centre in Runnymede and, as part of this, consider the views of those opposing the building of the centre. The petition presented to the Cabinet in opposition to the new visitor centre is attached at **Appendix 4**, as well as a document sent to members of the Select Committee by Andrew Telford, Chairman of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – Runnymede District (**Appendix 5**).

The Call-in

- 5** The purpose of the Call-in is for the Committee to review the decision taken and decide whether or not it wishes to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration. If the Committee decides to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, the nature of the Committee's concern must be stated.

For Decision

- 6** The Committee is required to review the decision of the Cabinet to approve a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre (full wording provided in paragraph 1 (ii)). If the Committee disagrees with the decision, it may refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration. If the Committee supports the decision of the Cabinet, the decision will stand and no further action will be taken.

Next Steps

- 7** If the decision is referred back to the Cabinet, a meeting of the Cabinet shall be held within seven working days. The Cabinet can then decide to amend the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

Report contact: Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager

Contact details: jacqui.hird@surreycc.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 8541 9006

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 23 OCTOBER 2012

REPORT OF: MRS HELYN CLACK, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE 2012 GAMES

LEAD OFFICER: SUSIE KEMP, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MAGNA CARTA 800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To adopt the resolution(s) being proposed by the national Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee to all local authorities with a direct involvement/connection with the Magna Carta 800th anniversary in 2015, to support a range of national celebratory activities and to approve in principal a £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding being raised externally.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

1. supports and endorses all recommendations in the model resolutions 1-20 which includes the proposal for a National Holiday on 15th June 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary.
2. approves in principal a £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding to be raised externally, subject to appropriate project governance and management being put in place, which is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Assistant Chief Executive.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

15th June 2015 will be the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede. The Magna Carta established the Rule of Law and Human Rights; it effectively challenged for the first time the divine right of Kings. The Magna Carta Trust has established "The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee" to organise and coordinate the commemoration of this important anniversary.

This committee has established model resolutions and these are set out in Section 1 below. Proposals (i) – (iv) and (vi) – (xx) are general resolutions seeking SCC support for activities that are broad ranging promotional activities to raise the profile of the anniversary. (v) proposes a National Holiday on 15th June 2015. It is recommended that these are supported.

<u>DETAILS:</u>

Magna Carta Trust Resolutions

1. The resolutions proposed by the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee which Surrey County Council is asked to support are:
 - (i) This Council resolves that it will participate in this celebration and in the run-up to the 15 June 2015.
 - (ii) The Council will proclaim and observe a Magna Carta day whether the 15 June or another appropriate date each year in 2013 and 2014.
 - (iii) and/or will conduct a Magna Carta week in coordination with the other Magna Carta towns in England.
 - (iv) and/or will seek to enlist other suitable bodies within the County such as libraries, schools, colleges and universities, and other relevant organisations to participate in the run-up and observation of the date of the sealing of the Magna Carta.
 - (v) and/or will petition Parliament to declare 15th June 2015 as a national holiday. This has already been supported unanimously by the House of Commons in a recent vote on a Ten Minute Rule Bill promoted by Eleanor Laing MP.
 - (vi) The Magna Carta Trust's 800th Anniversary Committee proposes the following of special relevance to local Councils:
 - (vii) enlist local MPs to join and participate in the All-Party Group of Members of Parliament.
 - (viii) support local Magna Carta exhibitions in public libraries within the County.
 - (ix) encourage suitable museums, galleries, churches, etc to have Magna Carta exhibitions.
 - (x) encourage a Magna Carta evensong and Sunday services in churches.
 - (xi) petition the Royal Mail for commemorative stamps for each of the Magna Carta towns and first day covers promoted here.
 - (xii) encourage the Royal Mint to coin commemorative coins and on the reverse feature each of the Magna Carta towns.
 - (xiii) participate in developing a Magna Carta tour and promote it in a brochure and web presence to encourage tourism in all the Magna Carta towns.
 - (xiv) press the Department of Education to include the relevance of the Magna Carta in the revised history programme of the schools' syllabus.
 - (xv) encourage the distribution of the British Council Magna Carta booklet in schools throughout the County.

- (xvi) encourage local schools to take part in the English Speaking Union debate in the academic year 2014/2015.
 - (xvii) take part in the British schools' essay contest in 2014/2015.
 - (xviii) support the announcement of activities both within the County and nationally in the media and new media.
 - (xix) encourage the university to have an open lecture on the Magna Carta in 2015 and schools to organize school assembly talks on the Magna Carta.
 - (xx) encourage local radio (and television) stations to cover the Magna Carta celebrations and make available to local media appropriate academic and other spokesmen on the Magna Carta.
2. It should be noted that this report is solely about the request from the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee to adopt their model resolutions – and it does not seek to address the opportunity that this occasion presents for Surrey in terms of more locally organised events/activities to celebrate and definitively mark the Magna Carta and its octo-centenary.
 3. The sealing of the Magna Carta in Runnymede is a major part of Surrey's heritage and cultural identity, and the 800th anniversary will be an occasion of national and international prominence and significance. There will be strategic leadership from the County Council to ensure that the focus of this celebration is Runnymede and, working with partner organisations and stakeholders from across the County, we want to ensure that through the opportunity of the 800th anniversary, that this important historic event is fully promoted and celebrated - for the benefit of residents and visitors now, and in the future.
 4. Details of this ambition for the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary initiative in Surrey will be brought to Cabinet in due course for their consideration.

Visitor Centre

5. For a number of years there has been some concern at the quality of the visitor experience at this historically important site in Runnymede. One of the key ambitions for the 2015 anniversary (at both local and national level) is to provide new visitor facilities and arrangements (and improved site presentation/interpretation arrangements) at a standard consistent with the significance of the site.
6. Provisional plans for a Visitor Centre by Runnymede Borough Council indicate a cost of £8 million (to include capital build costs and associated fees). The County Council will make a £5 million contribution to this on the basis that £3 million is raised as match funding from other sources to enable the development to proceed. An active campaign to raise these funds is being managed by Runnymede BC.
7. Surrey County Council is putting in place robust project management and governance arrangements to ensure an appropriate level of leadership and involvement as befits this scale of investment in the project. The details of this will be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader and Assistant Chief Executive.

8. The project (along with the requisite local improvements to the highway) has a very tight timescale to ensure completion in time for the 2015 celebration. The provisional timescale is that work will commence on site late 2013 with build/fit-out completed by February 2015. There will be some capital draw down to service cost of fees in the design and development stage, as well as a requirement for capital for stage payments during construction.
9. Surrey County Council is supporting this scheme because of the tremendous importance of Magna Carta in terms of heritage education, economic development, tourism and great pride in our county. The County Council is further seeking to ensure a state of the art facility within an impressive, sustainable, and architecturally distinguished landmark building that will tell the story of Magna to both local and international visitors. Through the events in 2015 and the Visitor Centre, the profile of Surrey will be enhanced both nationally and internationally which will benefit the area in both the short and longer term.

Tourism research (based on the Cambridge Model)

10. In the Economic Impact on Tourism in Runnymede 2011 Report, Tourism South East Research Unit estimated that in 2011 1,767,000 tourism day trips were made to Runnymede (lasting more than 3 hours and taken on an irregular basis) and an estimated 150,000 staying trips were spent in Runnymede, of which around 107,000 were made by domestic visitors (71%) and 43,000 by overseas visitors (29%).
11. Direct expenditure generated by tourism in Runnymede for 2011 was estimated to be £102m which translated to £136.6m worth of income for local businesses through additional indirect and induced effects. This tourism-related expenditure is estimated to have supported 1,759 FTE jobs in Runnymede or 2,379 actual jobs if considering part-time and seasonal employment. These jobs are spread across a wide range of service sectors from catering, hospitality and retail to public service jobs such as in local government, and not just tourism. Based on our estimates, total tourism related expenditure supports 4% of these jobs in Runnymede.
12. The potential additional tourism to Runnymede for the Magna Carta visitor Centre in the future could therefore have a significant impact on the local economy as well as to the County as a whole. A modest 10% increase in tourism arising from a new visitor centre would add an additional £13.6m per annum of income to the area.
13. Operational management arrangements for the new visitor facility will be determined jointly by Surrey County Council and Runnymede BC but it is not envisaged that the County Council will have a direct management role or responsibility (or any financial commitment) to the facility once it has been opened.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

14. This matter has been discussed with the Leader of Council, Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games and the Surrey County Council Heritage Champion.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

15. The Expression of Support being sought by the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee for these resolutions does not create any risk management issues for Surrey County Council.
16. The risks associated with building the Visitor Centre are centred on the extra £3m match funding not being raised. If this is the case, Surrey CC would not put forward the balance of the £5m capital monies following any capital draw down for cost of fees for the design and development stage as described in paragraph 8. The estimated costs of these fees will be in the order of £250,000.
17. Significant work has already been undertaken at risk by Runnymede BC. Their Corporate Management Committee is determining all the risks in respect of proceeding further with the Visitor Centre on 1st November 2012. Should Runnymede Councillors not agree to proceed, the funding contribution of £5m will not be committed.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

18. There are no additional budget requirements involved with supporting the resolutions proposed by the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee. These can all be supported as part of the services business as usual operations.
19. If the recommendation is approved, the £5m contribution for the Magna Carta visitor centre will be added to the County's capital programme.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

20. The Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) confirms that all material financial and business issues and risks have been considered / addressed within the report.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

21. The Expression of Support being sought by the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee for these resolutions does not create or establish any legal situation for Surrey County Council.

Equalities and Diversity

22. The Magna Carta was sealed at Runnymede and is therefore an important historic event for the county of Surrey and its residents. The resolutions are inclusive and aim to promote universal understanding of the importance of Magna Carta – locally, nationally and internationally. With particular respect to (x) we will encourage participation from all denominations and ethnic groups. A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be prepared in conjunction with Runnymede BC.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

23. The planned facility will have direct impacts through construction and during its operation, and furthermore provides an opportunity to demonstrate and communicate the council's active commitment to embedding sustainability in its own operations. In response to this, the visitor centre will be designed and constructed to achieve BREEAM Very Good as a minimum standard, in line with the Council's Energy and Carbon Plan. This will place the building in the top quartile for environmental performance and will consider impacts of construction materials, energy, health and well-being for building users, sustainable travel access, ecology and water demand. Opportunities will be taken to demonstrate to visitors, these design features and their environmental, social and financial benefits.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Surrey County Council confirms adoption of these resolutions with the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee.
- Arrangement to promote resolutions that require local actions (either directly by SCC – or via stakeholders) are put in place.
- A report will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games and the Leader for approval detailing appropriate governance and project management to be put in place to oversee the Visitor Centre construction and development.

Contact Officers:

Peter Milton
Head of Cultural Services
Tel: 020 541 7679

Rhian Boast
Directorate Business and Administration Manager, Customers and Communities
Tel: 020 8541 9447

Consulted:

The Leader of Council
David McNulty, Chief Executive Officer SCC
Chris Norman, Local Member for Chertsey, SCC
SCC rep on the local Runnymede Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Steering Group
Paul Turrell, CEO of Runnymede BC

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

- Letter from St Albans 24 October 2011 on behalf of the National Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Organising Committee.

CABINET

The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday 23 October 2012 considered the following matters and resolved:

- **SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MAGNA CARTA 800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS** (Item 10)
 1. That all recommendations in the model resolutions 1-20, which includes the proposal for a National Holiday on 15th June 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary, be supported and endorsed.
 2. That a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding to be raised externally, be approved in principle subject to appropriate project governance and management being put in place, the agreement of which be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Assistant Chief Executive.

Reason for Decisions

The sealing of the Magna Carta in Runnymede is a major part of Surrey's heritage and cultural identity and the 800th anniversary will be an occasion of national and international prominence and significance. There will be strategic leadership from the County Council, working with partner organisations and stakeholders from across the County, to ensure that the focus of this celebration is Runnymede. Through the opportunity of the 800th anniversary, this important historic event will be fully promoted and celebrated for the benefit of residents and visitors now and in the future.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Communities Select Committee]

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Form to call in a decision – please complete all fields marked *

If you require any assistance, please contact Democratic Services on 020 8541 9122.

Your Details

First Name *

Surname *

Decision-making body *

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> Runnymede |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elmbridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Spelthorne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epsom & Ewell | <input type="checkbox"/> Surrey Heath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guildford | <input type="checkbox"/> Tandridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mole Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Waverley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reigate | <input type="checkbox"/> Woking |

Decision taken *

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MAGNA CARTA 800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

1. That all recommendations in the model resolutions 1-20, which includes the proposal for a National Holiday on 15th June 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary, be supported and endorsed.
2. That a total £5m contribution to the funding for a new visitor centre, with £3m of additional match funding to be raised externally, be approved in principle subject to appropriate project governance and management being put in place, the agreement of which be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Assistant Chief Executive.

Date decision taken * : 23 October 2012

Reason(s) for calling in the decision

The Cabinet decision to agree in principle a £5m contribution to the funding of a new visitor centre in Runnymede represents a significant commitment by the County Council. There has been no prior opportunity by the Select Committee to look at this proposal and there are a number of matters that it would be appropriate for the Committee to consider in connection with this decision.

These include :-

- The views of those opposing the building of the centre (to include the petition submitted to the Cabinet and the views of the CPRE circulated to members of the Committee)
- Financial and governance issues (to include VFM, risk, future financial implications and responsibilities, any additional associated project revenue costs and the contribution of other authorities)
- The assumed benefits to the County Council and to Surrey of this investment.

Desired outcome:

A reassessment of the current decision by Cabinet so that the financial and governance issues, views of those opposing the building, and assumed benefits to the County Council and to Surrey can be considered.

Identified evidence

Cabinet's Decision, Campaign to Protect Rural England information sheet, Petition opposing a new visitor centre (presented to Cabinet 23 October 2012)

Desired Witnesses

Lead petitioner, a representative from Campaign to Protect Rural England, National Trust, Chief Executive and Leader of Runnymede Council.

Also Runnymede County Councillors will be invited to share their views.

Member calling in decision

1. Member *

Steve Cosser (Chairman of Communities SC)

Date of call-in

31 October 2012

2. Member

Chris Norman (Vice-Chairman of Communities SC)

3. Member

Committee responsible for examining this decision

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Overview & Scrutiny | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Social Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children & Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Scrutiny |

Call-in by Select Committee

Select Committees have the power to call in decisions made, but not yet implemented, by the Cabinet and/or local committees if they feel that the decision is inappropriate. Implementation will be delayed while the Select Committee meets.

A decision can be 'called in' for scrutiny by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the relevant Committee or by any three or more Committee members from more than one political party. A decision must be 'called in' within five days of publication of the decision by the Cabinet and/or local committees (decisions must be published within three working days of the Cabinet and/or local committee meeting). The Chairman of the Select Committee must then call a meeting of the Committee within another ten working days.

The Select Committee can interview the Cabinet Member and/or Council officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements to the decision.

Issues to consider when deciding whether to call in a decision:

- Has the Cabinet adequately taken account of the appropriate Select Committee's views?
- Can the query be satisfied without a call-in?
- Is call-in constitutionally possible (e.g. Is the issue a Cabinet decision)?
- Can you build the case for a call-in? You will need to work with the Scrutiny Officer for the Committee to identify evidence and plan an approach.

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MAGNA CARTA CENTRE PETITION

Runnymede Borough Council wish to build a Visitor Centre at Runnymede Pleasure Grounds, the plans are for a large, unsympathetic design building on this open space.

We have support from CPRE (Campaign To Protect Rural England) as they also have serious concerns regarding the future of Runnymede Pleasure Grounds as an open space if this proposal was to go ahead; the principal matter being the detrimental effect the increased visitor numbers and traffic will have on the wider site and local infrastructure, including the wildlife habitat.

Runnymede Borough Council has been refused funding by the Heritage Lottery Funding and is therefore looking at a cost of approx. £5 million to finance this project. We believe this money could be better spent (e.g. on hospital facilities/public swimming pool/leisure centre).

Whilst we appreciate it is good to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta in 2015, we would urge you to sign our petition NOT to support the project in its current form, but to scale back to perhaps a temporary structure (e.g. marquee etc.) in keeping with the land and spirit of the Magna Carta which does not irrevocably alter the landscape, the locale, and the quality of life for current residents.



Please show your
support by signing
our petition and
THANK YOU.

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IN THE MATTER OF ITEM 10 of SCC's CABINET AGENDA FOR 23/10/12 REGARDING FUNDING FOR A VISITOR CENTRE AT RUNNYMEDE

1. The Surrey branch of CPRE has the third largest county membership in the country, and exists to protect Surrey open spaces in both town and country.
2. CPRE Surrey has visited the Runnymede Pleasure Grounds – the proposed site, the wider site, and the local area, and submits that the decision to provide £5m funding for this project should be called in for scrutiny by the Communities Select Committee on the grounds that the Cabinet has not had regard to all material considerations in making this decision, and the decision is therefore Wednesbury unreasonable. In particular the Cabinet has not had regard to:
 - The future of Runnymede Common as an open space if this proposal were to go ahead, the principal concern being the detrimental effect that the increased visitor numbers and traffic will have on the wider site and local infrastructure, and the detrimental effect that the 'improvements' and 'productisation' proposed will have on the wider site, in particular, its heritage.
 - The fact that nearly all land outside the intended Pleasure Grounds site is registered common land, and the severe constraints imposed on the wider site by the Egham Inclosure Act 1814, the Law of Property Act 1925, the NT Acts 1907-1971, the Surrey Act 1985, and the Commons Act 2006.
 - That the case for this heritage centre is based on desire, expectation and aspiration rather than need and a demonstrated evidential demand for such a centre, and to build a centre on an anticipated subsequential take up of use is clearly not a wise use of public money.
 - That the Cabinet has not recognised that, following an application by RBC to the Heritage Lottery Fund, justified by a £50,000 feasibility study by JDD consultants, public funding was withheld when the application was considered against HLF's criteria for conservation, learning and participation benefits, need, and value for money, "*as the Trustees considered this project was not a strong match against these criteria.*"
 - That both the provision of a centre and the matter of charging for parking on the proposed site are contrary to the terms of the bequest of the land to RBC.
 - That longstanding tenants will be evicted from their homes to facilitate the project.
 - That the NT already operate a facility on the Runnymede site where coaches can park. This and the NT land at Runnymede is advertised on the NT website. It is difficult to see how tourist organisations, both domestic and international, could not already be aware of Runnymede and the American Bar Association and JFK memorials. Furthermore, the NT facility is within easy walking distance of both memorials. There is no need for another such facility, particularly one that is remote from these memorials - the NT already operates a facility in the Lodges.

- That the common and proposed site are subject to flooding throughout the year (eg 200mm deep water on the common on the afternoon of 13/5/12).
- The adverse effect of increased tourist numbers on the nearby Air Forces Memorial in Englefield Green, which RBC intend to be part of the 'visitor experience'. The Memorial car park in Englefield Green is unable to cope with more parking. Furthermore the access immediately before the car park is a narrow rural lane crossing a registered village green, Englefield Green, where parking is unlawful.
- That it is perverse to spend this sort of public money on this project near to Runnymede Borough's Englefield Green West Ward, in which Ward the Bar Association and Kennedy Memorials are situated, when, as RBC has only recently reminded us, Englefield Green was rated as the second most socially deprived village in Surrey in the most recent census figures available. It is the worst Ward for crime in Runnymede Borough, and there are serious poverty issues.
- That SCC has just made cutbacks in the Countryside Access department and it is particularly perverse to spend public money on a project that will have an adverse impact on land that this department safeguards.
- That the centre will attract more visitors to this site situated in an already traffic clogged area. The Highway Authority recognises that '*Egham is surrounded to the north by major junctions [including the Runnymede roundabout] and the area is congested ...*',¹ and '*There is significant congestion at this [Runnymede Roundabout] location that affects traffic movements in the area...*'². Measures for improving traffic flow at this roundabout would cost £4 million (in 2010)³.
- That, notwithstanding that the CEO of RBC, in his opening remarks in RBC's Sustainable Community Strategy states⁴ that '*We are the borough where the Magna Carta was sealed almost 800 years ago.*' he is almost certainly incorrect. As JDD state, in their feasibility study⁵, and most historians agree, the Magna Carta was most likely to have been sealed near the Yew at Ankerwyke Priory, which is not in Runnymede Borough or even Surrey.

Andrew Telford. Chairman CPRE Surrey Runnymede District

30/10/2012

¹ SCC Local Committee (Runnymede) 1.11.10 Agenda at 3.10

² SCC Local Committee (Runnymede) 1.11.10 Agenda at 4.3(a)

³ SCC Local Committee (Runnymede) 1.11.10 Minutes at 51/10(1)

⁴ Page 5

⁵ Outline Conservation Statement 2.4